



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/977,290	10/16/2001	Young-Min Nam	P56413	2052

7590 03/24/2005

Robert E. Bushnell  
1522 K Street, N.W., Suite 300  
Washington, DC 20005-1202

EXAMINER
----------

FLETCHER, JAMES A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2616

DATE MAILED: 03/24/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/977,290

Applicant(s)

NAM, YOUNG-MIN

Examiner

James A. Fletcher

Art Unit

2616

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 October 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-33 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner. .  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***New Art Unit***

1. Please include the new Art Unit 2616 in the caption or heading of any written or facsimile communication submitted after this Office Action because the examiner, who was assigned to Art Unit 2615, will be assigned to new Art Unit 2616. Your cooperation in this matter will assist in the timely processing of the submission and is appreciated by the Office.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-2, 5, and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hatanaka et al (6,397,000).

**Regarding claim 1**, Hatanaka et al disclose a digital magnetic recording apparatus comprising:

- an analog-to-digital converter converting an input audio signal into digital data (Col 5, lines 8-10 "An analog audio signal 151 is inputted to the audio input terminal 27, and converted by the audio A/D converter 29 to a digital audio signal");

Art Unit: 2616

- a formatter formatting the audio signal in an appropriate size to be stored in respective recording sectors of a magnetic tape selected from among a first plurality of sectors of the magnetic tape (Col 3, lines 10-11 "The output from the tuner 5 is demodulated by the QPSK demodulator 6 and then inputted to the FEC7");
- a recording selection unit selectively transmitting the input audio signal to one selected from among the formatter and the analog-to-digital converter, in dependence upon a type of the audio signal (Col 5, line 65 - Col 6, line 1 "the recording signal changeover switch 17 selects a contact d and inputs the multiplexed stream 44 to the packet control circuit 18 to thereby record/playback the multiplexed stream 44"); and
- a control unit controlling a head to record output data from the analog to digital converter on a second plurality of sectors of the magnetic tape and to record output data from the formatter on the first plurality of sectors of the magnetic tape, the first and second pluralities of sectors being distinguishable (Col 3, line 64 - Col 4, line 1 "additional information AUX 97 and a header 96 are further added by the recording/playback circuit 19 to each of the packet data A and B, in which the packet data A already has the added header 98, to thereby provide data blocks 90 and 91").

**Regarding claim 2,** Hatanaka et al disclose a digital magnetic recording apparatus comprising an encoder converting the input audio signal into a predetermined

digital data and providing the digital data to the formatter (Fig 1, item 31 "Audio Encoder").

**Regarding claims 5 and 8**, Hatanaka discloses a digital magnetic recording apparatus comprising a discrimination unit detecting a type of the input audio signal, the detected type being one type selected from among a plurality of types of data, the recording selection unit being controlled in dependence upon result of the detecting performed by the discrimination unit (Col 1, lines 62-65 "a record selecting means for selecting one of the digital signal inputted by the digital input means and the multiplexed digital signal provided by the multiplexing means").

4. Claims 10-19 and 27-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Katayama (5,915,066).

**Regarding claim 10**, Katayama discloses a digital magnetic reproducing apparatus (Col 8, lines 58-63 "A typical example of the package software is an optical disk having a high recording-density and a high mass-productivity. Other examples thereof are a magnetic tape...reproduced by reproduction apparatus 100 at the user side") comprising:

- a digital-to-analog converter converting a first type of audio data read from a magnetic tape to an analog audio signal (Col 6, lines 37-40 "Audio demodulator 17 demodulates the audio data [digital] of the audio channel selected by audio channel selector 16 into an analog signal and outputs the analog signal");

- a deformatter deformatting a second type of audio data read from the magnetic tape (Fig 10 illustrates separate decoders for MPEG [172] and AC-3 [174]);
- a decoder decoding deformatted data output from the deformatter (Fig 10, item 174 "AC-3 decoder"); and
- a reproduction selection unit selectively transmitting general audio data read from the magnetic tape to one selected from among the deformatter and the digital-to-analog converter (Col 6, lines 37-40 "Audio demodulator 17 demodulates the audio data [digital] of the audio channel selected by audio channel selector 16 into an analog signal and outputs the analog signal"), in dependence upon a type of the general audio data including the first and second types of audio data (Col 9, lines 60-61 "According to selection command E153 from MPU 150, selector 162 [sic, the correct reference number is 164] selects either of the MPEG data and AC-3 data").

**Regarding claim 11**, a digital magnetic reproducing apparatus; wherein the deformatting of the second type of audio data correspond to dividing and grouping the second type of audio data to produce data having a predetermined structure (Col 10, lines 2-5 "when the AC-3 audio is selected according to command E153, the selected AC-3 compressed, multi-channel data is input to AC-3 decoder 174 and the input data is decoded therein").

**Regarding claim 12**, Katayama discloses a digital magnetic reproducing apparatus comprising a discrimination unit detecting the type of the general audio data,

Art Unit: 2616

the reproduction selection unit being controlled in dependence upon the detected type resulting from the detecting performed by the discrimination unit (Col 9, lines 60-61 "According to selection command E153 from MPU 150, selector 162 [sic, the correct reference number is 164] selects either of the MPEG data and AC-3 data").

**Regarding claims 13 and 18**, Katayama discloses a digital magnetic reproducing apparatus comprising a memory temporarily storing an output of the deformatter, and providing the stored output to the decoder (Col 13, lines 1-4 "memory video playback for playing back image information temporarily stored in a memory [not shown] such as an internal video memory of demodulator 14 [FIG. 9] or of mixer 142 [FIG. 10]").

**Regarding claim 14**, Katayama discloses a digital magnetic reproducing apparatus wherein the data having the predetermined structure correspond to data selected from among MP3 data and AC-3 data (Col 9, lines 60-61 "According to selection command E153 from MPU 150, selector 162 selects either of the MPEG data and AC-3 data").

**Regarding claim 15**, Katayama discloses a digital magnetic reproducing apparatus wherein the decoder inputs the data having the predetermined structure and outputting analog data (Col 10, lines 27-28 "The digital output from attenuator 180 is converted by DAC 170 into a specific type of analog audio signal[s]").

**Regarding claim 16**, Katayama discloses a digital magnetic reproducing apparatus wherein the data having the predetermined structure correspond to data selected from among MP3 data and AC-3 data (Col 9, lines 60-61 "According to

selection command E153 from MPU 150, selector 162 selects either of the MPEG data and AC-3 data”).

**Regarding claim 17**, Katayama discloses a digital magnetic reproducing apparatus comprising a discrimination unit detecting the type of the general audio data, the reproduction selection unit being controlled in dependence upon the detected type resulting from the detecting performed by the discrimination unit (Col 9, lines 60-61 “According to selection command E153 from MPU 150, selector 162 selects either of the MPEG data and AC-3 data”).

**Regarding claim 19**, Katayama discloses a digital magnetic reproducing apparatus wherein the second type of audio data provided to the deformatter is MP3 data (Col 9, lines 60-61 “According to selection command E153 from MPU 150, selector 162 selects either of the MPEG data and AC-3 data”).

**Regarding claim 27**, Katayama discloses a method of reproducing plural types of audio data on respective recording sectors of a magnetic tape for a digital magnetic recording/reproducing device comprising:

- detecting at least one type of audio data read from the respective recording sectors of the tape, the at least one type including at least a first type and a second type (Col 9, lines 60-61 “According to selection command E153 from MPU 150, selector 162 selects either of the MPEG data and AC-3 data”);
- performing one selected from among digital-to-analog conversion and deformatting, the digital-to-analog conversion being selected and converting digital audio data read from the tape to analog audio data when the detecting



detects a first type of audio data (Col 6, lines 37-40 "Audio demodulator 17 demodulates the audio data [digital] of the audio channel selected by audio channel selector 16 into an analog signal and outputs the analog signal"), the deformatting being selected and deformatting the audio data read from the tape, when the detecting detects a second type of audio data, the first and second types being distinguishable (Col 9, lines 60-61 "According to selection command E153 from MPU 150, selector 162 selects either of the MPEG data and AC-3 data");

- decoding the deformatted audio data (Col 10, lines 27-28 "The digital output from attenuator 180 is converted by DAC 170 into a specific type of analog audio signal[s]"); and
- reproducing one selected from among the digital-to-analog converted audio data and the decoded audio data (Col 6, lines 37-40 "Audio demodulator 17 demodulates the audio data [digital] of the audio channel selected by audio channel selector 16 into an analog signal and outputs the analog signal").

**Regarding claim 28**, Katayama discloses a method of reproducing plural types of audio data on respective recording sectors of a magnetic tape for a digital magnetic recording/reproducing device wherein the deformatting and decoding are performed before the reproducing (Figure 10 shows a signal path where MPEG Decoder 172 and AC-3 Decoder 174 appear several steps before the DAC 170 and the audio output).

**Regarding claim 29**, Katayama discloses a method of reproducing plural types of audio data on respective recording sectors of a magnetic tape for a digital magnetic

recording/reproducing device wherein the second type of data corresponds to a predetermined structure of digital data, the first type of data corresponding to digital data other than the predetermined structure of digital data (Col 9, lines 60-61 "According to selection command E153 from MPU 150, selector 162 [sic, the correct reference number is 164] selects either of the MPEG data and AC-3 data").

**Regarding claim 30**, Katayama discloses a method of reproducing plural types of audio data on respective recording sectors of a magnetic tape for a digital magnetic recording/reproducing device wherein the predetermined structure of digital data corresponds to MP3 data (Col 9, lines 60-61 "According to selection command E153 from MPU 150, selector 162 [sic, the correct reference number is 164] selects either of the MPEG data and AC-3 data").

**Regarding claim 31**, Katayama discloses a method of reproducing plural types of audio data on respective recording sectors of a magnetic tape for a digital magnetic recording/reproducing device wherein the decoding corresponds to generating analog data from the MP3 data (Figure 10, item 162 starts a signal path of MPEG data being supplied to MPEG decoder 172, eventually arriving at "Audio Output of Selected Channel").

**Regarding claim 32**, Katayama discloses a method of reproducing plural types of audio data on respective recording sectors of a magnetic tape for a digital magnetic recording/reproducing device wherein the decoding corresponds to generating analog data from the digital data having the predetermined structure (Figure 10, illustrates a

plurality of paths for predetermined audio signals to an "Audio Output of Selected Channel").

**Regarding claim 33**, Katayama discloses a method of reproducing plural types of audio data on respective recording sectors of a magnetic tape for a digital magnetic recording/reproducing device wherein the deformatting corresponds to generating MP3 data from the digital audio data read from the tape (Fig 10, item 172 "MPEG Decoder").

5. Claims 20-22 and 24-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Amano et al (4,772,959).

**Regarding claim 20**, Amano et al disclose a method of recording different types of audio data on a magnetic tape for a digital magnetic recording/reproducing device, comprising:

- detecting a type of an input audio signal (Col 1, lines 43-46 "if the sampling frequency of the audio signal is not an integral multiple of the vertical synchronous signal of the video signal");
- when a format of the input audio signal does not correspond to a recording format of recording sectors of the magnetic tape, formatting the input audio signal in an appropriate size to be stored in the recording sectors of the magnetic tape (Col 1, lines 63-65 "means for dividing samples of the audio digital signal input on the recording side on the basis of the field information on the reproduction side"); and
- recording a plurality of different types of audio signals in respective recording sectors of the magnetic tape (Col 1, lines 52-55 "a digital signal recording and

reproducing apparatus comprising means for dividing samples of the audio digital signal for respective fields according to a predetermined rule”).

**Regarding claim 21**, Amano et al disclose a method of recording different types of audio data on a magnetic tape for a digital magnetic recording/ reproducing device wherein the magnetic tape including general audio sectors storing general audio data, general video sectors storing video data corresponding to the general audio data, and the recording sectors recording the formatted data, the recording sectors being redundant audio sectors, the redundant audio sectors being distinguishable from the general audio and video sectors (Col 3, lines 14-14 “4 samples [8 symbols] and 3 samples [6 symbols] of extraneous areas are generated for the 800-sample fields and 801-sample fields respectively”).

**Regarding claim 22**, Amano et al disclose a method of recording different types of audio data on a magnetic tape for a digital magnetic recording/reproducing device comprising encoding the input audio signal into predetermined digital data (Col 1, lines 53-55 “means for dividing samples of the audio digital signal for respective fields according to a predetermined rule”), the encoding being performed after the detecting and before the formatting (Col 3, lines 1-2 “When a signal format is constructed after division into symbols, the signals are rearranged” ).

**Regarding claim 24**, Amano et al disclose a method of recording different types of audio data on a magnetic tape for a digital magnetic recording/reproducing device wherein the encoding is performed according to a selection (Col 1, lines 17-25 “In the case of a PCM audio processor according to the EIAJ...standards...the audio sampling

Art Unit: 2616

frequency for the VTR of an NTSC system is set to the frequency of 44,56 KHz, that is 735 times higher than the vertical synchronous signal... In this case, the audio digital signal of 735 samples per channel is recorded in a signal field of the VTR" and Col 1, lines 28-34 "In a PCM recorder used for business purposes for which a sampling frequency of 48 KHz is recommended according to AES... Standards... an audio digital signal of 800.8 samples is recorded for each channel in a field, dividing one sample, if recorded in a VTR of an NTSC system" and Col 1, lines 55-57 "means for generating field information for identifying the number of samples of the audio digital signal for each field").

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 3-4, and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hatanaka et al as applied to claims 1-2 above, and further in view of Tao (6,243,481).

**Regarding claims 3 and 4**, Hatanaka et al disclose a digital magnetic recording apparatus capable of recording various formats of digital data (Col 2, lines 56-57 "a compression system called, for example, MPEG 2"), but does not specifically state that the data is MP3 or AC-3 data.

Tao teaches storing digital audio data as MP3 data or AC-3 data (Col 2, lines 4-6 "In one embodiment, the digital data are in a compressed format [e.g., JPEG or MPEG for image data, MP3 or AC3 for audio data, as well as other data compression formats]").

As suggested by Hatanaka and taught by Tao, MP3 and AC3 are well-known, commercially available, and widely used formats for compressing and storing digital audio data, providing good quality playback while requiring a minimum of storage space.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Hatanaka to include MP3 and AC3 audio data storage.

**Regarding claim 6**, Hatanaka et al disclose a digital magnetic recording apparatus wherein the plurality of types of data include at analog data, and digital data which is not MP3 data (Col 1, lines 38-45 "a digital input means for inputting to the recording device a digital signal indicative of video, audio, data, and so forth...an analog audio signal input means for inputting an analog audio signal to the recording device"), but do not specifically disclose inputting MP3 data.

Tao teaches storing digital audio data as MP3 data or AC-3 data (Col 2, lines 4-6 "In one embodiment, the digital data are in a compressed format [e.g., JPEG or MPEG for image data, MP3 or AC3 for audio data, as well as other data compression formats]").

As suggested by Hatanaka and taught by Tao, MP3 and AC3 are well-known, commercially available, and widely used formats for compressing and storing digital

audio data, providing good quality playback while requiring a minimum of storage space.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Hatanaka to include MP3 and AC3 audio data storage.

8. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hatanaka et al as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Amano.

**Regarding claim 9**, Hatanaka et al disclose a digital magnetic recording apparatus wherein the magnetic tape includes at least the first plurality of sectors, the second plurality of sectors, and general video sectors, the general video sectors storing video data, the second plurality of sectors being general audio sectors storing audio data corresponding to the video data (Col 3, line 64 - Col 4, line 1 "additional information AUX 97 and a header 96 are further added by the recording/playback circuit 19 to each of the packet data A and B, in which the packet data A already has the added header 98, to thereby provide data blocks 90 and 91"), but does not disclose the first plurality of sectors being redundant audio sectors.

Amano teaches the recording of audio in redundant audio sectors (Col 3, lines 14-14 "4 samples [8 symbols] and 3 samples [6 symbols] of extraneous areas are generated for the 800-sample fields and 801-sample fields respectively").

As taught by Amano, the use of redundant audio sectors for recording of audio digital audio signals is well known and widely used, and provides the user with the ability to add audio signals after a recording has been made.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Hatanaka to provide and use redundant audio sectors.

9. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hatanaka et al and Tao as applied to claim 6 above, and further in view of Amano.

**Regarding claim 7**, Hatanaka et al disclose a digital magnetic recording apparatus wherein the magnetic tape includes at least the first plurality of sectors, the second plurality of sectors, and general video sectors, the general video sectors storing video data, the second plurality of sectors being general audio sectors storing audio data corresponding to the video data (Col 3, line 64 - Col 4, line 1 "additional information AUX 97 and a header 96 are further added by the recording/playback circuit 19 to each of the packet data A and B, in which the packet data A already has the added header 98, to thereby provide data blocks 90 and 91"), but does not disclose the first plurality of sectors being redundant audio sectors.

Amano teaches the recording of audio in redundant audio sectors (Col 3, lines 14-14 "4 samples [8 symbols] and 3 samples [6 symbols] of extraneous areas are generated for the 800-sample fields and 801-sample fields respectively").

As taught by Amano, the use of redundant audio sectors for recording of audio digital audio signals is well known and widely used, and provides the user with the ability to add audio signals after a recording has been made.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Hatanaka to provide and use redundant audio sectors.

10. Claim 25 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Amano.



**Regarding claim 25**, Amano discloses a method of recording different types of audio data on a magnetic tape for a digital magnetic recording/reproducing device according to a selection as analyzed and discussed regarding claim 24, but does not specifically disclose that the selection is performed by a user.

The examiner takes official notice that user controls for selecting recording formats are notoriously well known, widely used, and commercially available e.g., selector switches to determine whether to record S-VHS or VHS format on S-VHS recorders, and provide flexibility for the user to decide which format best suits his requirements.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Amano to include a user control to select the format of the audio data being recorded.

**11.** Claims 23 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Amano as applied to claims 21-24 above, and further in view of Tao.

**Regarding claim 23**, Amano discloses a method of recording different types of audio data on a magnetic tape for a digital magnetic recording/reproducing device using a variety of digital audio data formats, but does not specifically disclose the use of MP3 formatted data.

Tao teaches the use of a variety of digital audio data formats, including MP3 (Col 3, lines 4-6 "the digital data are in a compressed format [e.g., JPEG or MPEG for image data, MP3 or AC3 for audio data, as well as other data compression formats").

As suggested by Amano and taught by Tao, MP3 and AC3 are well-known, commercially available, and widely used formats for compressing and storing digital audio data, providing good quality playback while requiring a minimum of storage space.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Hatanaka to include MP3 and AC3 audio data storage.

**Regarding claim 26**, Amano et al disclose a method of recording different types of audio data on a magnetic tape for a digital magnetic recording/ reproducing device wherein the magnetic tape including general audio sectors storing general audio data, general video sectors storing video data corresponding to the general audio data, and the recording sectors recording the formatted data, the recording sectors being redundant audio sectors, the redundant audio sectors being distinguishable from the general audio and video sectors (Col 3, lines 14-14 "4 samples [8 symbols] and 3 samples [6 symbols] of extraneous areas are generated for the 800-sample fields and 801-sample fields respectively").

**12.** Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James A. Fletcher whose telephone number is (571) 272-7377. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:45AM - 5:45PM M-Th, first Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Faile can be reached at (571) 272-7375.

**Any response to this action should be mailed to:**

Application/Control Number: 09/977,290  
Art Unit: 2616

Page 18

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, DC 20231


**or faxed to:**

**(703) 872-9314 (for Technology Center 2600 only).**

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

JAF  
March 21, 2005

  
ANDREW FAILE  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600  
PATENT EXAMINER